



UNIVERSAL  
POSTAL UNION

Berne, 11 April 2005

International Bureau Circular

**127**

United States of America – Extraterritorial  
Offices of Exchange (ETOEes)

Dear Sir/Madam

The postal administration of the **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA** asks me to inform you of the following:

"New procedures will be introduced by the U.S. Postal Service with respect to the acceptance and handling of inbound dispatches tendered by extraterritorial offices of exchange (ETOEes).

"In IB circular 370 of 3 September 2001, the United States advised UPU member countries of its policy regarding ETOEs. This policy remains the same, that is, that dispatches sent by ETOEs cannot be accepted by the U.S. Postal Service on the basis of the UPU Acts. This policy was reinforced by the Bucharest Congress which, in its resolution C 44/2004, decided, inter alia, that items sent from ETOEs are considered commercial items not subject to the UPU Acts.

"Despite the policy and procedures advised in late 2001 by the USA, several ETOE operators continue to send dispatches to the U.S. Postal Service under UPU documentation. Since identifying ETOE dispatches, performing separate accounting procedures and rating the items at domestic rates is time-consuming and costly, the U.S. Postal Service has decided to implement new procedures effective 1 May, 2005. As of that date, United States offices of exchange will refuse to accept dispatches from ETOEs on the basis of UPU documentation. Airlines, ground handling and transportation companies will be advised separately that the U.S. Postal Service will not accept ETOE dispatches at inward offices of exchange.

"The U.S. Postal Service will deliver ETOE items only upon entry at a domestic mail acceptance facility and upon fulfilling domestic mailing requirements and payment of domestic postage rates. For information on U.S. Postal Service domestic mailing standards, please see <http://pe.usps.gov/>.

"We appreciate the cooperation of UPU members in complying with the policy and new procedures outlined above."

Yours faithfully,

J G HALPIN  
Director of Economic and Regulatory Affairs